

Questions for Military Recruiters

- 1 How long is my enlistment commitment actually for?
- 2 Can the armed forces make me stay longer than what I have contracted for?
- 3 Do I get paid more money for staying longer than my contract stipulates?
- 4 Do I have any say in where I go, and how long I'm there for?
- 5 How much does a newly enlisted service member get paid per week?
- 6 Am I guaranteed the ability to go to college if I want to?
- 7 Can I do a job I want to do in this branch, or am I assigned one?
- 8 If I change my mind about being in this branch can I resign?
- 9 What will happen to me if I decide I don't want to be involved in the military after I enlist?
- 10 What are the most dangerous military jobs?
- 11 Will the skills I learn in the military be useful in civilian life?
- 12 What are the negative aspects of my training?
- 13 What do I do if an officer gives me a command that I believe is illegal?
- 14 What is post-traumatic stress disorder?
- 15 Will I receive any compensation if I am permanently disabled in war?
- 16 Have you ever seen combat and do you think exposure to it is healthy for me?
- 17 Will I be deployed to the Middle East?



**American Friends
Service Committee**

National Youth & Militarism Program
1501 Cherry Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102
215-241-7176
youthmil@afsc.org
www.youth4peace.org
<http://www.myspace.com/youthandmilitarismafsc>

8th Day Center for Justice
*A Catholic faith-based NGO
for social change*



205 W. Monroe St.
Chicago IL 60606
312-641-5151 8thday@claret.org
www.8thdaycenter.org

OVER >>>

Answers Military Recruiters Should Give You

- 1** Your enlistment period will last 8 years. Some portion will be active duty and some portion will be on reserve duty. Reserve duty can be made active.
- 2** Yes, the military has the right to change your contract and extend your service longer than you agreed to.
- 3** No, unless you receive a promotion your pay scale stays the same, but if you are in a combat related job you can receive "combat pay".
- 4** No, the military determines where you go and how long you are there. You do have the right to request transfers to different units, but there is never a guarantee that your request will be granted.
- 5** A new service member who is not an officer can be paid between \$13,000 and \$14,500 a year. An average is about \$280.00 a week with an average work week of 80 hours. (\$3.39 an hour)
- 6** If you are on active duty you are not guaranteed the ability to go to school when you want to. Your commanding officer must give their permission. You also might be deployed to a combat area for more than 15 months at a time making courses, even online courses, tough to complete.
- 7** Your job assignment is based on your ASVAB score. If your ASVAB score is too low or you flunk out of your job training you will not get that job and could be reassigned.
- 8** Only an officer can resign. Enlisted members must serve their time or face harsh penalties. Voluntary discharges can happen, but are rare.
- 9** You could put up with it, or risk being court-martialed, receiving a dishonorable discharge, spending time in a military jail, or getting a demotion and reduction in pay. You may also become ineligible for some civilian jobs if this happens.
- 10** In a war zone, there is no job that is safe. Many service members, whose jobs were transportation related, have been killed and injured in Iraq, but infantry related positions are among the most dangerous traditionally.
- 11** It depends on what your job specialty is. Much of what you will learn to do in the military will only relate to military jobs and not civilian jobs.
- 12** Studies have shown that those who are trained to kill and deal with the stress of warfare have the tendency to develop emotional and psychological health problems.
- 13** Military training is designed to mold service members who respond to orders without thinking. Of course, if you believe an order is unlawful you have an obligation to refuse to act upon it. If the lines are blurred, most will just obey. Those who refuse, if the order is illegal, could still face penalties.
- 14** PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) is a severe mental health affliction that develops when one experiences or witnesses a traumatic event, such as combat or the effects of combat. Flashbacks, nightmares, depression, and inability to think straight are some of the symptoms of PTSD.
- 15** Yes, you can receive compensation if you are disabled but the payment will be based on your actual disability. The military rating system for measuring disabilities and calculating disability payment has long been thought to be unfair. A person who is blinded may only get a 50% disability rating for instance.
- 16** Any recruiter who tells you that experiencing combat is healthy must not be aware of the thousands of war veterans who are suffering from PTSD, surviving without arms or legs, or whose quality of life will never be what it was before they witnessed combat.
- 17** Nearly every job is a "deployable" job. If you enlist in the Reserves or the National Guard there is a very good chance that you will be deployed to the Middle East rather than serving weekend duty stateside. Active duty enlistees should also be prepared to deploy. Forces are stretched thin and therefore new recruits should always be prepared to go to war.